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Dossier of 4 e-newsletters & policy briefs

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ABOUT COME RES

COME RES - Community Energy for the uptake of renewables in the electricity sector. Connecting long-term visions with short-term actions aims at facilitating the market uptake of renewable energy sources (RES) in the electricity sector. Specifically, the project focuses on advancing renewable energy communities (RECs) as per the EU's recast Renewable Energy Directive (REDII). COME RES takes a multi- and transdisciplinary approach to support the development of RECs in nine European countries; Belgium, Germany, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, and Spain.

COME RES covers diverse socio-technical systems including community PV, wind (onshore), storage and integrated community solutions, investigated in nine European countries. The project has a specific focus on a number of target regions in these countries, where community energy has the potential to be further developed and model regions where community energy is in a more advanced stage of development. COME RES analyses political, administrative, legal, socioeconomic, spatial and environmental characteristics, and the reasons for the slow deployment of RECs in selected target regions. COME RES synchronises project activities with the transposition and implementation of the Clean Energy Package and its provisions for RECs in policy labs. Policy lessons with validity across Europe will be drawn and recommendations proposed.

ABSTRACT

This deliverable provides a dossier consisting of the collection of e-newsletters and policy briefs that have been produced and released at regular intervals during project’s lifetime. Whilst the newsletters represent a key dissemination channel for COME RES activities in the nine COME RES countries and for the major project results, the attached policy briefs are a key tool for disseminating the policy relevant COME RES findings and for highlighting salient aspects of the ongoing policy discourse on renewable energy community issues at national as well as European level. The policy briefs have been translated into all nine project languages. In total, four e-newsletters were created throughout the project together with the four policy briefs featured in each of the editions.

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1. E-newsletters

1.1. Introduction

The e-newsletters were a key dissemination tool for the project and provided a structured approach to covering all the latest activities of the project partners, in particular the stakeholder country desks.

Throughout the dissemination work – whether in social media or at external events, stakeholders were encouraged to sign up to receive the e-newsletters. The sign up form was readily available at the bottom of every website page:

A screenshot of a newsletter subscription form. The form has a white background with a blue border. At the top left, there is a small red envelope icon followed by the text "Subscribe to our newsletter" in a bold, dark blue font. Below this, there is a light blue placeholder text "Please enter your email address" above a white input field. In the bottom right corner of the form, there is a circular logo with a green background and a white stylized plant icon. The form is set against a blue background that has a white curved shape at the top right.

1.2. Content

The e-newsletters followed a clear structure: Each edition included the following sections:

- **An introduction**
- **Voices from the COME RES regions** (where relevant): This included political endorsements from the participating regions. Note: A compilation of all endorsements is available at the [endorsements page](#) of the website.
- **Latest results & publications:** This includes the headline policy brief of each edition, together with the factsheets and other relevant publications from the project, including reports and key deliverables.
- **Updates:** This includes a varied selection of the latest news articles deriving from the country stakeholder desks. Note: All articles are available under the [news section](#) of the website.
- **Up-coming events and opportunities:** This section included any project or energy community events – a great dissemination space also for events from other European ‘sister community energy projects’.

1.3. Editions 1-4


Below are some impressions from the e-newsletters.

May 2021 - the full e-newsletter is [available here](#).


VOICES FROM THE COME RES REGIONS

COME RES has received endorsements from public officials in project regions in Italy, Germany and Spain. [Read the full endorsements](#).

"Projects such as H2020 COME RES, which pursue the transfer of knowledge and the establishment of a framework for sharing experiences are essential to continue advancing towards climate neutrality."



Nuria Matarredona, Director General, Ecological Innovation in Buildings, Generalitat Valenciana, Spain



"Energy communities will be protagonists of a new energy regime: no longer centralized and hierarchical but distributed and collaborative. This is the way towards a more equitable and sustainable future, where every citizen will be able to produce and share green energy with others, combining environmental benefits with economic and social ones."

Mayor Lucilla Parisi, Municipality of Roseto Valfortore, Italy

UPCOMING EVENTS

[DEGREE and Commit_General Assembly](#), 17-18 May 2021 (online)

[Thematic Workshop and Policy Lab for Dutch and Belgian Stakeholders](#), 25 May 2021 (online)

[Thematic Workshop of the Norwegian Stakeholder Desk](#), 02 June 2021 (online)

[Acting together: How to get all Stakeholders on board](#), partner event of the EU Green Week, 10 June (online)

[Thematic Workshop of the Portuguese Stakeholder Desk](#), 22 June (online)

About COME RES:

COME RES is a Horizon2020 project that aims to increase the share of renewable energy in the electricity sector. To do so, the project focusses on advancing renewable energy communities in nine European countries learning from regions with advanced community energy development and supporting target regions with the potential to further develop energy communities.

PARTNERS

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LATEST RESULTS

Policy Brief #01
04/2021




Policy Brief #1: Renewable Energy Communities - Are we nearly there?

The first COME RES Policy Brief explores the status of framework conditions for Renewable Energy Communities in the nine COME RES countries. It is based on a larger [assessment report on technical, legal and institutional policy conditions](#) developed under the project.

Stakeholder Involvement and Engagement Plans

The plans lay out the activities undertaken to establish a common methodology for the nine country desks. It serves to identify, map and analyse stakeholders to ensure the representation of different stakeholder groups and make the desk results comparable. [Find out more](#).

December 2021 - the full e-newsletter is [available here](#).



NEWS UPDATE December 2021


Welcome back to the COME RES Newsletter

At 16 months, the [COME RES project](#) is now well under way! All stakeholder desks have been very busy with their thematic workshops and policy roundtable events, all working on solutions to advancing renewable energy communities in Europe. Dive into the newsletter and find out more!

VOICES FROM THE COME RES REGIONS

COME RES has received a further endorsement from Utsira Municipality, Norway. [Read the full endorsement](#).

"We islanders [...] have committed to decarbonize our local energy system. We recognize that our own choices will make a measurable difference to the climate of our home island and beyond. We are keen to exchange knowledge and share experiences with our peers in other local energy systems. The COME RES project is fully in line with our strategy, and we are pleased to be part of the project."



Marte Eide Klovning,
Mayor of Utsira kommune

LATEST RESULTS

LATEST RESULTS

Policy Brief #02

19/09/21



Policy Brief #2: Things are moving, let's speed up!

Fortunately, since publishing the previous COME RES policy brief, several Member States have progressed in the transposition of RED II. This [policy brief #02](#) presents insights into the current state of affairs regarding transposition in COME RES countries, and in more detail in Germany, Italy, Belgium and Spain.

Factsheet #01

18/09/21



Factsheet #1: The Potential of Community Projects in the Renewable Energy Sector


This [factsheet](#) provides a concise overview of the potential of renewable energy communities to contribute to renewable energy targets for 2030, in each of the COME RES project's target regions. It is based on the larger 'Assessment report' presented below. It is available in [Dutch](#), [English](#), [German](#), [Italian](#), [Norwegian](#) and [Polish](#).

Assessment report of potentials for RES community energy in the target regions

This assessment report relies on a common methodology and takes into consideration the specific climate, energy, technological and socio-economic conditions. [Find out more](#)


Citizen-powered renewable energy is the way forward for Italy

As discussed at the recent workshop in Italy, by decentralising energy production and empowering citizens to engage, renewable energy communities have the potential to close the energy poverty gap and contribute to an inclusive decarbonisation process. [Read more](#)




UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

How can energy communities (better) use energy and building data? Find out more and have your say, by joining the BuiltHub [webinar](#) on **20 January 2022** And join the [BuiltHub Community](#)



[DECIDE workshop](#): Engaging with stakeholders to develop energy communities and overcome regulative barriers
26 January 2022 (online)



September 2022 – the full e-newsletter is [available here](#).

LATEST RESULTS & PUBLICATIONS

Policy Brief #03
09/2022

Policy Brief #3: Close but not quite there

The [policy brief](#) provides an up-to-date overview of the transposition of the relevant EU legislation and enabling frameworks, as well as the creation of support schemes and incentives to enable renewable energy communities to develop.

Factsheet #02
09/2022

Factsheet #2: Municipalities and renewable energy communities - a perfect match

Renewable energy communities are on the rise throughout Europe, contributing to the just energy transition. What do they look like and what makes them stand out? This [factsheet](#) shows that energy communities come in all shapes and sizes, but that the best practice cases share one key success factor: collaboration with local governments. It is available in [Dutch](#), [Spanish](#), [German](#), [Italian](#), [Czech](#), [Slovak](#), [Polish](#), [Bulgarian](#) and [French](#).

Comparative assessment of enabling frameworks for renewable energy communities and support scheme designs

This assessment report analyses the progress in transposing and implementing the provisions contained in RED II that apply to RECs in the nine COME RES countries. [Find out more >>](#)

Transfer management plans for learning regions

This report provides information about the process of selecting the 'learning regions' and the best/good practice measures and elements to be transferred to those regions. [Find out more >>](#)

Good practice portfolio

This report presents the categorisation and characterisation of all 21 good practice energy community cases. [Find out more >>](#)

Mainstreaming community energy: is the Renewable Energy Directive a driver for renewable energy communities in Germany and Italy?

This article examines the transposition in Germany and Italy and compares elements of the respective enabling frameworks. [Find out more >>](#)

Energy communities and the tensions between neoliberalism and communitarianism

To what extent are the ideals that motivate the energy community movement compatible with those of neoliberalism that have guided EU energy policy for the last four decades? Using a framework inspired by Michel Foucault's idea of governmentality, this article analyzes the two political forms from three dimensions: ontological, economic and power politics. [Find out more >>](#)

UPDATE

Introducing the Dutch-German community energy Transfer Team!

This group of Dutch and German community energy stakeholders - the Transfer Team - recently visited three best practice renewable energy communities in the Netherlands, discussed challenges, and drafted a roadmap to further develop energy communities throughout Thuringia (Germany). [Read more](#)

Progress on energy communities legislative framework in Latvia

The COME RES stakeholder desk in Latvia has provided direct support to the amendments to the Law on Energy, including to the definition of 'Energy Communities'. [Read more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

1 Municipality – 1 REC, can it be done?
30 September 2022, Brussels

Join us for this Sustainable Energy Day, part of the [European Sustainable Energy Week](#), during which we will carry out a reality check and discuss transferable solutions, their barriers and drivers, and what kinds of policies need to be in place to enable renewable energy communities to truly make a contribution to making Europe more energy-resilient! [Learn more and sign up.](#)

February 2023 – the full e-newsletter is [available here](#).

Welcome to the final COME RES newsletter!

After 30 months of advancing renewable energy communities in nine countries across Europe, the COME RES project is coming to an end. Our diverse team has analysed barriers, drivers and business models, and initiated transfers of good practices across and within borders, all contributing to the mainstreaming and implementation of enabling frameworks.

The project may be over, but the journey towards the just energy transition is not! We leave you - the renewable energy community stakeholders - with open access to our resources and results.

LATEST RESULTS & PUBLICATIONS



Policy Brief #4: COME RES Final Policy Recommendations – Short-term actions to meet long-term visions

After 30 months of facilitating the market uptake of renewable energy with a focus on advancing renewable energy communities in accordance with the EU's recast Renewable Energy Directive (RED II), this [policy brief](#) presents the concluding country-specific and cross-country policy lessons and recommendations of the COME RES project in its final month.

This brief is based on the comprehensive '[Final policy report and recommendations](#)' below.

Final consolidated summary report of desk activities in the target regions

The final consolidated report of the country desk activities covers the activities carried out within the framework of the 'country desks and stakeholder dialogues'. It summarises and documents all events and accomplishments of the COME RES country desks between September 2020 and December 2022. [Find out more >>](#)

Four proposals for action plans to enhance the development of renewable energy communities in target regions

This report describes the methodological approach followed in cooperation with a core group of country desk members and presents proposals for action plans in the four target regions selected. [Find out more >>](#)

Four best practice transfer roadmaps for learning regions

This report describes the activities in the context of return visits of practitioners of the mentoring regions to the learning regions. The key purpose of these return activities was to draw up roadmaps which describe, for each transfer case, tangible steps towards implementing (elements of) the respective best practices in the learning regions. [Find out more >>](#)



Factsheet #4: The COME RES Stakeholder Desks – paving the way for renewable energy communities

In all participating COME RES countries, major renewable energy community stakeholders and market actors have been actively involved in regular dialogue within stakeholder country desks to jointly identify context-specific solutions to overcome existing barriers for the growth of community energy and setting up enabling frameworks. [This factsheet](#) provides a snapshot of the main discussions and conclusions reached within the eight national desks (available in several languages).



Factsheet #3: Transferring Renewable Energy



'Transfer teams' sign MoUs to continue collaboration

At the COME RES final conference, held in Brussels on 31 Jan 2023, the Italian - Latvian (photo above), Dutch - German, and Spanish 'transfer teams' signed MoUs showing their commitment to continue their collaboration and support for energy community development in their regions, beyond the project.

The topics of the sessions ranged from policy debates on how to best enable renewable energy communities for a just transition, to lessons learned from the transfer of certain elements of best practice energy communities across borders. [Read more about the conference](#)



How to transfer a best practice energy community – insights from a real case example of the ‘Energy Gardens’

Renewable energy communities exist throughout Europe, in different shapes and forms, and to varying degrees of success. Since all are in the energy community movement together, with similar aims and visions of a more democratic and just energy system, wouldn't it be more effective to re-create key elements from one success model and to transfer those elements to another community? Stakeholders in Germany and the Netherlands, in particular, have been busy working on transferring the best practice case of the 'Energy Gardens'. [Read more](#)

Developing an action plan for RECs in the Canary Islands

Energy communities are spreading even to the outermost regions of Europe, including the Canary Islands (Spain). [Read about their action plan](#)



Italian – Latvian energy community exchange visits

What do Latvian renewable energy stakeholders have in common with their Italian counterparts? As it turns out, quite a lot. [Read more](#)

OPPORTUNITIES



The new Energy Community Platform is out!

COME RES has contributed to this brand new website, the [Energy Community Platform](#), which gathers tools and resources, from various projects, to help energy communities develop. The platform features:

- a test to self-assess the maturity of community energy projects,
- a broad collection of resources for any development stage,
- an overview of other energy communities, and
- an expert support network.

Past editions are available under the newsletter section of the website:

ABOUT STAKEHOLDER DESKS **NEWS & EVENTS** RESOURCES

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Latest Issues

- COME RES News Update 4 | February 2023
- COME RES News Update 3 | September 2022
- COME RES News Update 2 | December 2021
- COME RES News Update 1 | May 2021

2. Policy briefs

The COME RES policy briefs covered key policy relevant aspects of the project, They have been translated into all project languages and disseminated across all available channels, including in the newsletter presented above. They are all available under the [resources section of the website](#).

The following sections present the four COME RES policy briefs.

2.1. Policy Brief 1: Renewable Energy Communities - Are we nearly there?

Community energy has come a long way in Europe and is promising to become a backbone for a more decentralized and flexible Energy Union in which citizens increasingly play an important role. Enshrined in the Clean Energy Package and especially in the revised Renewable Energy Directive (RED II), community energy and collective self-consumption should now receive a boost. While the Internal Electricity Market Directive (IEMD) with its relevant provisions on Citizen Energy Communities (CECs) already had to be implemented until December 2020, Member States still have until June 2021 to transpose the European legislation for Renewable Energy Communities (RECs).

This brief is primarily targeted at policy makers engaged in the transposition and implementation process. It provides a snapshot of where Member States currently stand and inspires through good examples.

The full policy brief, including translations, is [available here](#).



2.2. Policy Brief 2: Things are moving, let's speed up!

Despite the transposition of the legislation pertaining to Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) and Citizen Energy Communities (CECs) progressing only slowly, we can observe plentiful and substantial activities being set in motion in those countries where national authorities have introduced provisions for energy communities. While many projects existing today are pilot sites profiting from and operating in regulatory sandboxes, it is clear that all over Europe, local authorities, citizens, SMEs and other energy market actors are starting ambitious projects in anticipation of the currently developing national enabling frameworks.

This policy brief presents insights into the current state of affairs regarding transposition in COME RES countries and specifically Germany, Italy, Belgium and Spain.

The full policy brief, including translations, is [available here](#).



2.3. Policy Brief 3: Close, but not quite there

The deadlines for transposing the Integrated Electricity Market Directive (IEMD) and the recast Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) into Member State legislation have long passed. In the meantime, tracking the relevant developments is, on the one hand, thrilling, as countries carry out fundamental changes to their energy market designs to accommodate a more citizen-led energy transition. On the other hand, it is also frustrating, because the necessary changes and enabling frameworks continue to develop at very different speeds, with no Member State having achieved the degree of transposition, which would satisfy the European requirements.

Could the deadlines for transposition have been too ambitious considering the political, technical and economic complexities of the national energy markets? Despite all this, Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) continue to develop and citizens, SMEs, public authorities and other energy market actors are waiting (and calling) for the creation of urgently needed enabling frameworks.



As the COME RES Report “Comparative Assessment of enabling frameworks for RECs and Support Scheme Designs” puts it, “The question of whether a country is on the right track cannot be measured by a literal implementation of the relevant articles of RED II, but rather by a conducive market environment, a successful embedding in the national context and by the establishment of suitable and supporting framework conditions.”

This brief, therefore, presents a snapshot of the progress on these elements since February 2021 pertaining to Art. 2 and Art. 22 of the RED II. It provides an overview of how, generally, the transposition of the relevant definitions, the promotion of enabling frameworks as well as the creation of support schemes and incentives is progressing. It also highlights examples from selected Member States.

The full policy brief, including translations, is [available here](#).

2.4. Policy Brief 4: Short-term actions to meet long-term visions

COME RES has been facilitating the market uptake of renewable energy with a focus on advancing renewable energy communities (RECs) in accordance with the EU’s recast Renewable Energy Directive (RED II). The project’s many activities have provided food for reflection and many important indications for drawing lessons for policy.

This policy report presents the concluding country-specific and cross-country policy lessons and recommendations of the COME RES project in its final month.

The full policy brief, including translations, is [available here](#).



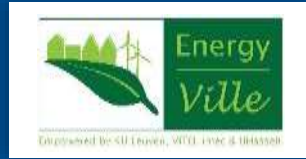
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PARTNERS



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